



CALPEEK

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FEDERAL JUDGE UPHOLDS WASHINGTON STATE'S BLANKET PRIMARY. IMPACT ON CALIF. NOT CLEAR.

Editor's note: Shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Calif.'s Open Primary Law in 2000 (*Calif. Demo Party v. Jones*), the Demo, Republican and Libertarian parties in *Washington State* filed suit to overturn their state's blanket primary law. In late March a federal district judge ruled that Washington's blanket primary is **constitutional**. What does this mean in terms of Calif.? Here's our brief update & analysis...

...The decision was handed down Mar. 28th by U.S. Dist. Court Judge Franklin Burgess. Burgess granted a summary judgment motion filed by WA Atty. General Christine Gregoire asking the court to dismiss the case. Sources in WA told *Calpeek* that an appeal of this decision is likely...

...Under Washington's 1936 blanket primary law, voters may cast ballots for any candidate of their choice regardless of political party. The candidate from each party who gets the most votes ends up in the general election. It's pretty close to Calif.'s former law, but there is a key difference. In the U.S. Supreme Court decision nullifying Calif.'s open primary law, the Justices ruled that Calif.'s law violated the 1st Amendment's guarantee of freedom of association by permitting non-party members to cross party lines to vote in another party's primary...

...Here's the difference: Unlike Calif. where most new voters declare which political party they wish to affiliate with when they register to vote, in Washington State there is no political party registration. One just signs up to vote without declaring a political party preference. Thus the 1st Amendment's freedom of association probably isn't violated under Washington's current system...

...Based on this trial court decision, GOP moderates in Calif. will be watching this case very closely. If Washington's blanket primary law is upheld at the appeal court level (and U.S. Supreme Court), bet your first born that Calif. GOP moderates (those who want the party to be more *inclusive*) will launch a initiative in 2004 to install a Washington-

type blanket primary in Calif. Without the blanket primary in Calif., GOP moderates (especially at the U.S. House and Legislative level) are doomed to second-class status and the party will continue to be dominated by conservatives...

...FYI: Washington's blanket primary isn't free from all pitfalls. The devil is in the details, such as electing county central committee members. And then there's the problem of *presidential primaries*. In Washington State, the presidential primary is nothing more than a beauty contest and delegates are selected at party conventions. Would this fly in Calif.??? Doubtful. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: CAN MENDOZA TAKE GARAMENDI IN BATTLE FOR CALIF. INSURANCE COMMISSIONER?

Editor's note: One of the more interesting battles in November will be the confrontation between Demo John Garamendi, the former Insurance Commissioner (1990-94), and attorney and former CA Corporation Commissioner Gary Mendoza(R). At stake is the leadership of the CA Dept. of Insurance(DOI), now in recovery after a political scandal forced former IC Chuck Quackenbush from office. We'll focus on Garamendi in another issue. Here's our first report & analysis...

...On some issues, such as law & order and fiscal management, GOP candidates might have an edge over their Demo counterparts. But when it comes to consumer protection and the environment, it's the Demos who are better positioned. And when it comes to the DOI, its job is to regulate this multi-billion dollar industry and to protect Calif. consumers. Given the way former IC Chuck Q handled his job it's no wonder some neutral sources are wondering if any GOP candidate can win this post. But Mendoza does have a track record while Corporation Commissioner, including battles with HMOs and thus the campaign's view (some might call it spin) is that Mendoza is "pro-consumer"...

...It's against this background that Mendoza will have to run against the better known Garamendi. Mendoza campaign consultant Kevin Spillane says that while Garamendi

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was IC, he *politicized* the office. “Garamendi was Quackenbush before there was a Quackenbush.” So the war of words has already begun...

...Mendoza still has very limited name ID and it was only because he was running against under-funded candidates Stefan Stitch and Wes Bannister that he won. For those who have forgotten, Mendoza originally wasn't looking at the IC's job, but was instead focused on AG – until State Sen. Dick Ackerman jumped in. At the last minute, the CA Republican Party got Mendoza to switch and the CRP paid Mendoza's filing fee for IC...

...Because funding was limited, Mendoza's primary strategy relied on only two things: endorsements (individuals, groups and news media) and GOP slates. This was one primary where *slate power* worked. Mendoza will continue to use The Stonecreek Group (Spillane) as his lead consultant. Savvy GOPER Anne Dunsmore (Capital Campaigns) is the chief fundraiser (FYI: Mendoza said recently that he will not take insurance company donations). Sources believe the campaign is leaning toward Arnie Steinberg as pollster, but there's been no decision as to a tv consultant...

...Politically, Mendoza is well connected in Calif. In 2000 he was one of 7 Calif. Bush co-chairs and he was an L.A. deputy mayor under Richard Riordan. At present he's practicing law in the Riordan/McKenzie law firm. So within Calif. GOP/legal circles, Mendoza is well known. Regardless, Mendoza still faces an uphill battle...

...PS: back to fundraising and money. Even though Mendoza won't take direct insurance industry money, there is always the possibility the industry could do an independent expenditure campaign OR they could donate funds directly to the CA Republican Party – who in turn can pump funds into Mendoza's campaign. It's all legal under the new campaign laws. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Now that Calif.'s March 5th primary is history, **Calpeek** can begin coverage of U.S. House general election battles. Here's our first update since the primary...

...Unfortunately (or fortunately – depending on your point of view) – there are very few seats up for grabs in Calif. *Incumbent protection* was the order of the day in the 2001 reapportionment plan signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis. There's supposed to be a court challenge to the U.S. House plan by some Latino groups, but no trial date has been set. Lots of pre-trial legal briefs, etc. taking place now...

...Most **Calpeek** sources agree that there are NO endanger-

ed GOP members of Congress and perhaps only one or two Demos who might have some competition. The reality is that with the exception of the 18th CD (U.S. Rep. Gary Condit's Central Valley seat) there are no competitive U.S. House races in Calif. this year...

☒ **18th CD Update** – The NRCC has released results of a new poll (by Mahoney Strimple Goncharenko) taken Mar. 13-14 among 400 likely voters. It shows Demo Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza holding a 41% to 37.5% lead over GOP State Sen. Dick Montieth. On the question of image (favorable/unfavorable), it's Montieth with 30% favorable, 6.5% unfavorable, 41.5% no opinion and 22% never heard of. For Cardoza, it's 31.8% favorable, 19.3% unfavorable, 37% no opinion and 12% never heard of. FYI: because of a very heavy GOP registration effort prior to the Mar. 5th primary, the Demo registration edge is now down to less than 7 points: 47.11%(D) vs. 40.54%(R) and 8.68%(DTS). When the lines were redrawn, the Demos had about a 14% lead on registration...

...Cardoza was in DC just prior to Easter, meeting with Demos and industry reps. Much of the heavy lifting for Cardoza's DC trip was provided by Central Valley Demo U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley...

☒ **53rd CD** – This is what's left of the old 49th CD, where Demo and GOP registration was nearly even.. U.S. Rep. Susan Davis(D) remains a favorite for another term because under the new remapping plan, Demos have a 9-pt. registration edge: 41.66%(D) vs. 32.51%(R), with 18.32% (DTS). There was a hot GOP primary between Bill VanDeWeghe and Tim Kane, with VanDeWeghe getting 58.1%. The combined GOP vote was about 29,000 vs. Davis' 33,000 (w/no opponent). On paper Davis should have this race locked away. She's sitting on a war chest of \$303,318 vs. \$16,263 for VanDeWeghe. Still, Davis angered some key San Diego labor leaders with her votes on trade/fast track and they weren't happy. For now, Davis is still favored, but the 53rd CD is on our *watch list*...

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TENSION & TURMOIL IN CALIF. GOP RANKS COULD CAUSE CANDIDATE BILL SIMON SOME HEADACHES.

Editor's note: This is the kind of story that *Calpeek* readers love. It's inside baseball stuff, but the mainstream news media also has written about these GOP circular firing squad antics. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...First it was the *S.F. Chron's* Carla Marinucci who broke a story March 7th on whether businessman Gerald Parsky, the White House's go-to guy in Calif., would support conservative Bill Simon's bid to oust Demo Gov. Gray Davis. This story dived into murky waters: Parsky and Simon's late father were business partners, but in '91 the relationship ended on a sour note. That's the root cause of this long-lasting tension between Parsky and Bill Jr. But the real meat of Marinucci's story was where Parsky said, "This party can only win if we change the image that the CA GOP is dominated by extremists." Did he mean Bill Simon Jr.?? Probably not, but a *NY Times* story by Richard Berke that same day quoted Parsky as saying, "Mr. Simon is an 'extreme conservative' who probably cannot be elected." Uppps – that's not the kind of quote needed to smooth some troubled waters...

... Toward the end of March, the *L.A. Times's* Michael Finnegan wrote a story similar to Marinucci's but threw in some added criticisms Parsky's way by key conservative backers of Simon. This particular story appeared Mar. 26th, six days after Simon, Parsky, current CRP Chair Shawn Steel and RNC Chair Marc Racicot held a Sacto news conference to give a thumbs up to Simon. Was this photo-op just a smoke screen to cover up the tensions in Calif.???

...Our sources think there is still tension between Parsky and Simon, despite denials. But contrary to some published reports, Parsky was neutral in the primary and it wasn't Parsky who got the White House to push Richard Riordan to run for governor. That was George Bush friend Brad Freeman. In fact, the relationship between Parsky and Riordan isn't all that cozy, our sources say. The guy who is really close to Riordan is CRP Chair Shawn Steel. Steel's wife was a Riordan commissioner and Riordan endorsed Steel's candidacy for CRP chair. However, Steel's pro-Riordan stance didn't seem to bother *Team Simon* and there's no indication of any lasting bitterness about this...

...Back to Parsky. The negative comments about the "extreme conservatives in the Calif. GOP" has put some egg on his face, but Parsky's a tough guy. Regardless, Steel just loves it. Remember: it was Parsky who pushed the CRP reforms last year which took away much of Steel's power as

party chair. And here's what's interesting: conservative CRP Vice Chair Bill Back, who ran on the same ticket as Steel, is now a Parsky loyalist. Is Steel a happy camper when it comes to Back??? Probably not, our sources say. Back would like to become the next CRP chair...

...The one guy who doesn't get mentioned in these stories about CRP/GOP antics is GOP State Senate Leader Jim Brulte. Until Parsky became the GWB's go-to guy in Calif., that job was Brulte's. Sources say when it comes to political strategy, Parsky listens to Brulte most of the time. Is there tension between them? Sources don't think so, but one never knows. And sources couldn't figure out whom Brulte backed in the primary. Sources say the straw poll at the CRP convention was Brulte's idea. The Riordan camp thought it was designed to screw their candidate. It did and Simon won the poll. *Byzantine* – to say the least. Stay tuned...

LOS ANGELES CITY'S NEW REMAP PLAN MAY NOT BE WORTH MUCH IF VALLEY SECESSION IS OKED.

Editor's note: Its no wonder there are already at least 20 candidates signed up to run for the L.A. City Council in 2003. Headline in the *L.A. Times*: *Highly Paid L.A. Council Gets a Raise*. It's 5%, meaning councilmembers will get \$139,784 by July 1st 2003. However, running for the L.A. City Council could be an exercise in futility IF the San Fernando Valley secession movement is successful this coming November. Here's our update & analysis...

...*Secession first*. It seems to be gaining some steam – or at least lots of PR and news media exposure. Residents of the S.F. Valley will get a choice of five(5) possible city names to pick from: Camelot (uggg); San Fernando Valley (OK), Rancho San Fernando (fair), Mission Valley (fair) and Valley City (fair). In addition to voting on whether or not to cut ties with the City of L.A., Valley voters will also be casting ballots for a mayor and 14 councilmembers. It's the *Campaign Consultants Full Employment Act of 2002*. It's still kind of iffy whether Valley cityhood will be OKed in the rest of the City, especially in light of CA Controller Kathleen Connell's report: a Valley city budget of \$1 billion annually would have a reserve fund of only about \$1 million – which is way short of what it should have(\$40 million). This just confirms what *One Los Angeles* (the Valley-based anti-secession group) has been saying all along...

...*L.A. Reapportionment*. The big winners in the newly drawn districts are Latinos and residents of the S.F. Valley. Under the new plan, Latinos would have pluralities in 5 districts (currently 4) and Valley residents would have 5 seats totally located within the Valley (currently 4). The

City Council is expected to ratify this plan on or about July 1st. Will this new remapping plan be enough to satisfy Valley residents? Perhaps, but certainly not those who advocate cutting ties with L.A...

...**Running for the L.A. Council.** In order to raise funds for the 2003 muni election, potential candidates can now sign a "declaration of intent to solicit and receive contributions." 4th District Councilman Tom LaBonge has no challengers. In the open 8th CD, there are 5 candidates: Assemblyman Rod Wright; Robert Cole; Sherri L. Franklin; Kevin D. Melon and Mervin Evans. Possible candidate: LAUSD member Genethia Hayes...

...In the open 10th District, 2 candidates: Deron E. Williams and Madison Shockley II (ran against Nate Holden last time). In the 14th District now represented by Councilman Nick Pacheco, there are 3 challengers: William M. Morrison; Paul Gonzales; and Alvin Parra, who ran last time. Possible candidate: former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa...

...There are 3 S.F. Valley seats up for grabs too: In the open 6th District (in 2003 seat #6 – Galanter – moves to the Valley) there are 2 candidates: Michael Bonin (an aide to Galanter); and Sheila Bernard. In the 12th Districts, there are 4 candidates: former Assemblywoman Paula Boland; Dan Huff-man; Marvin Barsky; and Greig Smith, Councilman Hal Bernson's COS. Possible candidate: Walter Prince, who ran last time. New 2nd District Councilwoman Wendy Greuel has no challengers. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Voter Turnout** – As of Mar. 30th, the latest data from the Mar. 5th Calif. primary show turnout at 34%. Of counties casting 100,000 or more ballots, L.A. had the lowest turnout: 25.8%. Best turnout: Sonoma Co. with 43.2%...

■ **U.S. Senate in 2004** – U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) is fully committed to seeking a 3rd term in 2004. There had been some rumors prior to 9-11 that she might not seek reelection. Those rumors were correct, but 9-11 changed everything for the 61-year-old lawmaker. As for fundraising, as of 12/31/01 Boxer's war chest was low: \$115,989. Sources say she'll need to raise \$10-20 million for 2004. Possible GOP rivals include: U.S. Reps. Darrell Issa of San Diego and Doug Ose of Sacto. Both GOP congressman

are slam dunks for reelection in 2002 and both have *deep pockets*...

■ **Calif. Connected** – Calif. PBS-TV stations KCET, KVIE, KQED and KPBS are linking up to produce a new weekly p/a and news magazine series called *Calif. Connected*. Former *60 Minutes* producer Marley Klaus and former CNN producer Bob Melisso are in charge. Show premieres April 25th. The series will be HQed at KCET...

■ **3 Strikes Before U.S. Supreme Court** – In case you missed it, the U.S. Supreme Court will review Calif.'s 3 Strikes Law. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has reversed two 3-strike convictions in recent months. The specific case the high will look at is the conviction of a person caught stealing \$153 worth of videotapes, who was sentenced to 50 years in prison. Is that cruel and unusual punishment? That's the focus of this case...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Ron Hartwig, Richard Riordan's cmp. director/ceo, returned to Hill & Knowlton/L.A. April 1st. He'll be a director of U.S. corporate practices...

● Rob Wilcox has been hired by L.A. Controller Laura Chick. Wilcox will be a deputy controller – in charge of news media relations. Years ago Wilcox worked for former State Sen. Ed Davis. More recently, he was a principle with International Ventures, an entertainment management company...

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